

Appln. No. 10/609,431
Amendment dated January 25, 2005
Reply to Office Action mailed October 25, 2004

REMARKS

Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Entry of the above amendments is courteously requested in order to place all claims in this application in allowable condition and/or to place the non-allowed claims in better condition for consideration on appeal.

Claim 7 remains in this application. Claims 1 through 6 have been cancelled. No claims have been withdrawn or added.

The Examiner's rejections will be considered in the order of their occurrence in the Office Action.

Part 1 of the Office Action

Claim 2 has been formally cancelled.

Part 2 of the Office Action

Claims 1 and 3 through 7 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. Section 103(a) as being unpatentable over Norris U.S. Patent No. 5,590,545 in view of Wyeth U.S. Patent No. 1,401,227.

Claim 7, particularly as amended, requires "a bra with a pair of shoulder straps each having a rear section", "a bra strap retainer", "wherein each of said shoulder straps extends inward of said prongs of one of said opposite end portions with respect to the body of a wearer of said bra such that each of said end portions engages one of said shoulder straps", and "wherein each of aid shoulder straps extends outward of said elongate main portion with respect to the body of the wearer of the bra such that said straps being wound through said slots between said prongs and said elongate main portion".

It is submitted that the Wyeth and the Norris patents would not lead one of ordinary skill in the art to the features of the invention as recited in

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claim 7. In particular, the Wyeth patent leads one of ordinary skill in the art to fasteners "5" that do not directly engage the straps of a bra, requiring instead a rubber band that connects to the straps, and the Norris patent shows a single bra strap being attached to a single overgarment strap, and thus would not suggest a retainer directly linked to a pair of the straps.

It is therefore submitted that the cited patents, and especially the allegedly obvious combination of Wyeth and Norris set forth in the rejection of the Office Action, would not lead one skilled in the art to the applicant's invention as required by claim 7.

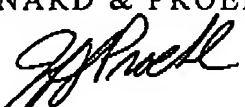
Withdrawal of the §103(a) rejection of claim 7 is therefore respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

In light of the foregoing amendments and remarks, early reconsideration and allowance of this application are most courteously solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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